

Transit Planning Board Meeting

Thursday, November 29, 2007

1:00 PM

245 Peachtree Center Ave.

Suite 800 – GRTA Board Room

Atlanta, GA 30303

Present Board Members:

Doug Tollett, *President of American Resurgens Management Corp. /TPB Vice Chair*

Beverly Scott, *General Manager of MARTA*

Buzz Ahrens, *Chair of Cherokee County Board of Commissioners*

Charles Bannister, *Chair of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners*

Eddie Freeman, *Chair of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners*

John Eaves, *Chair Fulton County Board of Commissioners*

Laura O'Connor Hodgson, *CEO of Insomnia Consulting*

Pam Sessions, *CEO of Hedgewood Properties, Inc.*

Roy Middlebrooks, *Chair of Rockdale County Board of Commissioners*

Sam Olens, *Chair of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners*

Vernon Jones, *CEO of DeKalb County Board of Commissioners*

Absent Board Members:

Eldrin Bell, *Chair of Clayton County Board of Commissioners/TPB Chair*

Jack Smith, *Chair of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners*

Jason Harper, *Chair of Henry County Board of Commissioners*

Mike Evans, *Chair of the State Transportation Board*

Shirley Franklin, *Mayor of the City of Atlanta*

Tom Worthan, *Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners*

Walter Deriso, *Chair GRTA Board of Directors*

Walter L. Kimbrough, *Acting Chair of MARTA*

Other TPB and Partner Agency Staff Present:

Cheryl King, *TPB Staff Director*

Cain Williamson, *ARC Staff resource to the TPB*

Carol Smith, *MARTA, Director of Research and Analysis*

Dan Foth, *JJ&G*

Gloria Gaines, *MARTA/TPB Sr. Staff*

Helen Tapp, *JJ&G*

John Ahmann, *JJ&G*

John Crocker, *TPB Planner*

Lisa Lee, *TPB Executive Assistant*

Luz Borrero, *Deputy Chief Operating Officer, City of Atlanta*

Paul Grether, *MARTA Staff Resource to the TPB*

Tom Weyandt, *ARC Director Comprehensive Planning/TPB Senior Staff*

William Mecke, *GRTA Staff Resource to the TPB*

Quorum Present? Yes

**Meeting was officially called to order by Vice-Chair Doug Tollett at 12:00PM. After confirming that a quorum of the Board was present the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

► **Public Comment**

- None

► **Approval of Board Agenda for December 13, 2007**

- Agenda was approved.

► **Approval of Board Minutes from November 29, 2007**

- August minutes were approved.

► **Staff Director's Report – Cheryl King**

- We have the original regional transit maps and we are most appreciative of our partner agencies, MARTA, GRTA, ARC, GDOT and Georgia Power and the Clean Air Campaign for supplying funds to print the first 75,000 copies. The maps will be distributed to key locations where there is a high volume of activity. We are currently searching for potential sponsors for next year's update of the map.
- The "open door" demonstration project between MARTA and CCT has been extended for another 90 days to work out details related to making the service permanent. The results of the onboard survey done by MARTA shows the service has been successful and gives a good snapshot of what's going on with the service. There are some related ADA Paratransit and senior service issues that will need to be addressed.

► **Concept 3 Vision Plan Update – Cheryl King**

- Since our last Board meeting, the Vision Plan map has been updated. It is presented in a schematic format to convey that it is still a conceptual Vision Plan that we want to take out and review with the public.
- The Vision Plan provides mobility, access, travel time reliability, connection to activity centers and a competitive edge with the autos.
- By 2030, we are looking to capture between 15% and 25 % of the trips going to activity centers because these are some of the biggest trip generating locations in our region. Thus, if we serve and capture some of those trips, we will have accomplished our goal of providing a viable mobility option.
- We have to look at modifying our existing local bus and circulator system so that these services work well with the proposed investment we would make in the regional transit vision.

- We need to work with our local government in making sure that they support land use policies that would support our proposed transit investment.

Concept 3 Map Changes – Jim Baker, JJ&G

- Initially, MARTA's heavy rail was extended west to Fulton Industrial Boulevard but is now extended just to I-285 as we have confirmed with MARTA. BRT service is extended from the H.E. Holmes station out to Fulton Industrial Blvd.
- Some Board members wanted further consideration given to providing higher capacity transit services in some corridors. Unfortunately, there has not been a lot of study in the past in many of these corridors so we've identified those corridors with a term called "transit ways." These areas, so designated, are flagged for further study to determine the appropriate mode and service level for those corridors.
- The total cost to maintain the current transit system as well as construct the Concept 3 system has not changed and is still anticipated to be (2007-2030) \$54 billion (in un-inflated 2007 dollars); a large percentage of this cost is operations and maintenance and this does include the MARTA debt service.
- The resolution that you have in your notebooks today asking the Board for permission to take the plan out to the public for feedback has been modified from the earlier draft you received. It has been revised to reduce the redundancy which incorporates more exact wording. ***Motion Passed.***
- Chairman Olens asked that we revise the map to be more geographically accurate and easier for people to understand what is being proposed. He also asked that the map be posted on the websites of all of the operators and be sent in electronic form to all of the Board members.

► **Public Engagement Approach** – John Ahmann

- The TPB goal is to educate key stakeholders and the general public in an effort to facilitate informed decisions regarding the regional transit Vision Plan.
- The TPB will:
 - ✓ Identify and connect interested parties
 - ✓ Educate key stakeholders and the general public
 - ✓ Address regional transit issues and questions
 - ✓ Gather, record and reflect input from key stakeholders and the general public
- We have solicited different community groups and organizations that are willing to sponsor TPB Days in their counties or with their chambers. Also, we plan to get on the agendas of groups for their existing meetings.
- The timeframe will be from December 2007 through May of 2008.

► **Next Steps** – *Cheryl King*

- Draft Public Engagement Plan
- Draft Governance Principles
- Public Outreach
- Advocate for New Transit Funding from Partnerships
- Agreement on Regional Governance

► **Board Introduced Topics**

- The TPB will hold elections at the December 13th Board meeting.
 - Chairman Eldrin Bell and Doug Tollett intend to run again for their offices.
 - Ms. King shared a letter to the Board from a Barrow County commuter extending her hope for the implementation of an Athens to Atlanta commuter train.
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**Meeting adjourned at 1:30PM

**Minutes submitted by Executive Assistant, Lisa Lee

ADOPTED this 29th day of November, 2007:

Chairman

Date

Executive Assistant